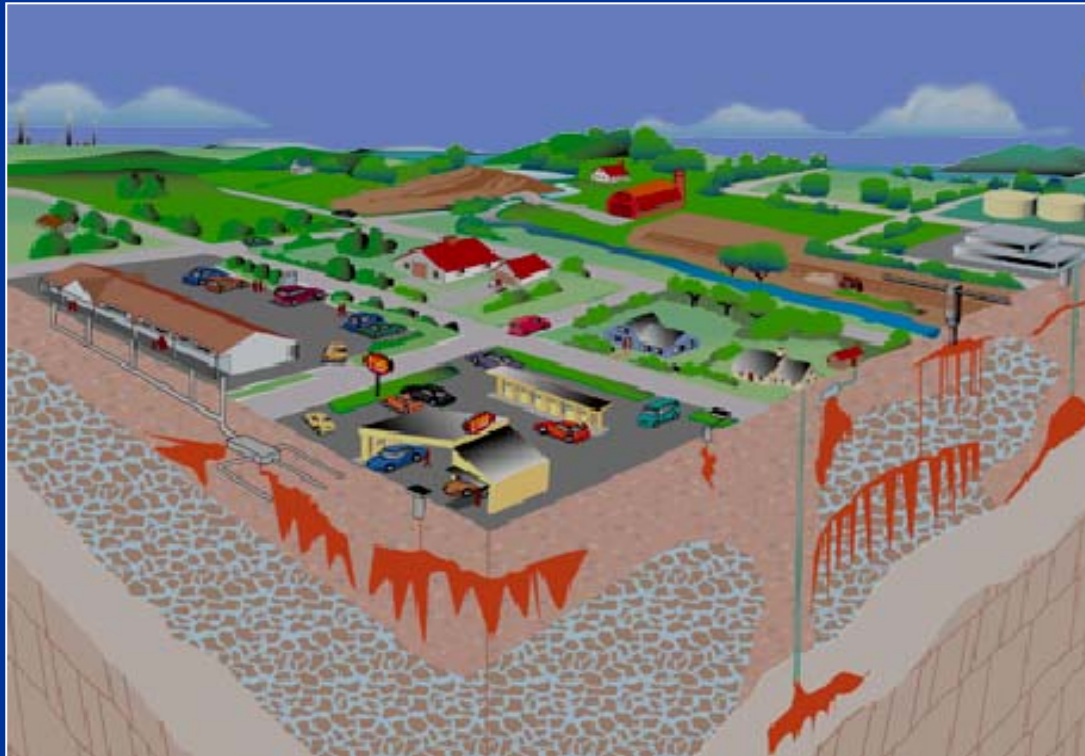


# Underground Injection Control (UIC) Program Rules



# What is the UIC Program?

- The UIC Program is part of the Safe Drinking Water Act.
- The goal of the UIC program is to protect ground water for drinking by regulating discharges to UIC wells.
- Federal regulations describe the UIC Program requirements for states to follow.

# UIC Program in Washington

- Ecology began administering the UIC Program in **1984**. It was part of the larger package to gain primacy for the NPDES Program.
- Majority of UIC wells are NOT under a permit, but are registered and authorized through the regulation.
- Some WA counties use thousands of UIC wells to manage stormwater: Spokane, Yakima, Clark, Pierce, and Tri Cities area.

# Why are we proposing to change the UIC rules?

The UIC rule was opened up because EPA revised their regulation. If Ecology wants to continue administering the program we have to update our regulation:

- UIC Program Rules, Chapter 173-218 WAC
- State Waste Discharge Program Rules, Ch 173-216 WAC (minor change to allow UIC wells in permit, if needed).

# What is a UIC well?

- A UIC well is a man made structure used to discharge fluids into the ground.
- It has to be deeper than wide at the land surface or a subsurface distribution system or an improved sinkhole.

# What types of UIC wells are there?

There are 5 Classes of UIC wells defined by USEPA . Many of the first 4 classes are banned or restricted.

- Class 5 wells are the most common method of discharging water to the subsurface.
- In Washington, the majority of UIC wells are Class 5 wells. Examples are dry wells, french drains, drainfields, boreholes, and infiltration trenches with perforated pipe.

# In WA UIC wells are used to:



- Manage Stormwater
- Dispose of sanitary waste
- Dispose of commercial and industrial waste fluids
- Enhance remediation at ground water clean up sites





# What do I have to do if I own or manage a UIC well?

- Meet the 2 federal requirements:
  1. All UIC wells must be registered and
  2. Meet the non-endangerment standard.
- If the above can not be met, a permit will be needed to operate the well.

**NOTE: Ecology believes most UIC wells will not need a permit.**



# 1. Registration

- UIC wells must be registered with Ecology or EPA.
- Registration forms are available from Ecology.

**NOTE: UIC wells used at single family homes are exempt from registering**

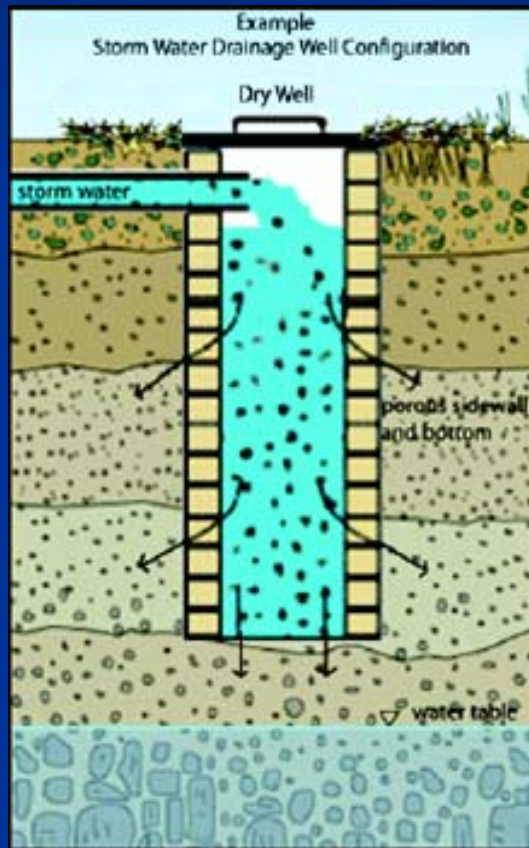
## 2. Meeting the non-endangerment standard –EXISTING Stormwater



EXISTING UIC wells used for stormwater management can be grandfathered in if the owner:

- Registers the wells;
- Completes a well assessment; and
- Retrofit UIC wells, is necessary

# Meeting the non-endangerment standard—NEW Stormwater



NEW UIC wells used for stormwater management:

The owner can use the approaches in the stormwater manuals or an approved manual OR show the site practices will be protective.

## Meeting the non-endangerment standard—Other UIC Wells

- Other UIC wells not used for stormwater, must:

**Existing** - grandfathered in if already registered, meet new requirements if not registered

**New** - meet new well requirements

# What is a well assessment?

- Evaluates the potential risks to ground water from the use of UIC wells.
- Identifies UIC wells that are a high threat to ground water
- Includes a schedule for the wells that are determined to be a high threat and need to be retrofitted.

# Other proposed rule changes

- Federal ban of 2 types of UIC wells: motor vehicle waste disposal wells and large capacity cesspools
- Lists Class V wells that automatically meet the non-endangerment standard (protective standard)
- Decommissioning (Closure) standards for all UIC wells.

# What have we done so far in the UIC rule revision process?

- Nov 2001 - Filed the CR101, initial notice letting the public know we are considering changes to the rules.
- 2002-2004 A UIC rule revision committee was formed, based largely on participants who took part in the Eastern WA stormwater manual. Assisted in drafting the revisions.
- Nov 2004 - Held informational public workshops on rule revisions.



# Rule Revision Timeline



# What will be in the UIC Rule Package for public comment?

- Draft UIC Rule
- Draft Technical guidance for UIC wells used for stormwater management
- Draft Implementation Plan
- Small Business Economic Impact Analysis
- Cost Benefit Analysis

# To summarize

- Majority of UIC wells will **not** need a permit.
- Rule requirements are: register all UIC wells and meet the non-endangerment standard.
- New stormwater management wells use best management practices to meet requirement.
- Existing stormwater management wells are grandfathered in unless they cause or contribute to a water quality problem.
- Non stormwater managed wells are either grandfathered in (registered) or must meet the requirements for new wells (not registered).